

***Chrysopogon castaneus* (Poaceae - Andropogoneae), a new species from Maharashtra, India**

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Abstract

Chrysopogon castaneus, a new species of Poaceae is described and illustrated.

INTRODUCTION

Among a collection of grasses gathered in Maharashtra, India, by Dr. C.B. Salunkhe and Dr. S.R. Yadav (Shivaji University, Kolhapur) a *Chrysopogon* turned up, that could not be identified with any SE Asian species. It is particularly exceptional because of the few-spiked, lax panicle, the glabrous pedicels of the pedicelled spikelets more than half as long as the sessile spikelet, and in the very long awns. The glumes of the sessile spikelet are deeply castaneous, glossy and distally minutely tuberculate.

***Chrysopogon castaneus* Veldkamp et Salunkhe, sp. nov.**

A congeneribus asiaticis differt in habitu perennanti, culmis erectis, foliis planis, 3-8 mm latis, paniculis laxis paucispiculatis 8-20 cm longis c. 2.5 cm latis, ramis infimis binis, longissimo c. 5 cm longo, spiculis sessilibus castaneis c. 10 mm longis, callo c. 2 mm longo acuto pilis brunneis inculso, gluma inferiore distaliter minute tuberculatis, glumae superioris mucrone c. 1.5-4 mm longo, arista c. 60-70 mm longa, columnae pilis c. 0.3 mm longis, pedicellis spicula sessili ultra dimidium longioribus glabris vel pilis 1 vel 2 provisis laevisibus, spiculis pedicellatis 10.5-12 mm longis viridibus glabris laevisibus muticis.

Type: India, Maharashtra, Sindhudurg Dt., Amboli-Choukul, 725 m, 18 Sept. 1993, S.R. Yadav 8678 (Holo - L; Iso - Herbarium Shivaji University, Kolhapur); Satara Dt., Kas Plateau, 1310 m, 9 Oct. 1994, Salunkhe 8586, 8587 (Para - Herbarium Shivaji University, Kolhapur).

Plants perennial. Culms 0.4-1 m tall. Ligule a ciliolate collar, c. 0.5 mm high. Blades flat, 8-25 x 0.3-0.8 cm, obtuse, margins pectinate with bulbous-based hairs, otherwise

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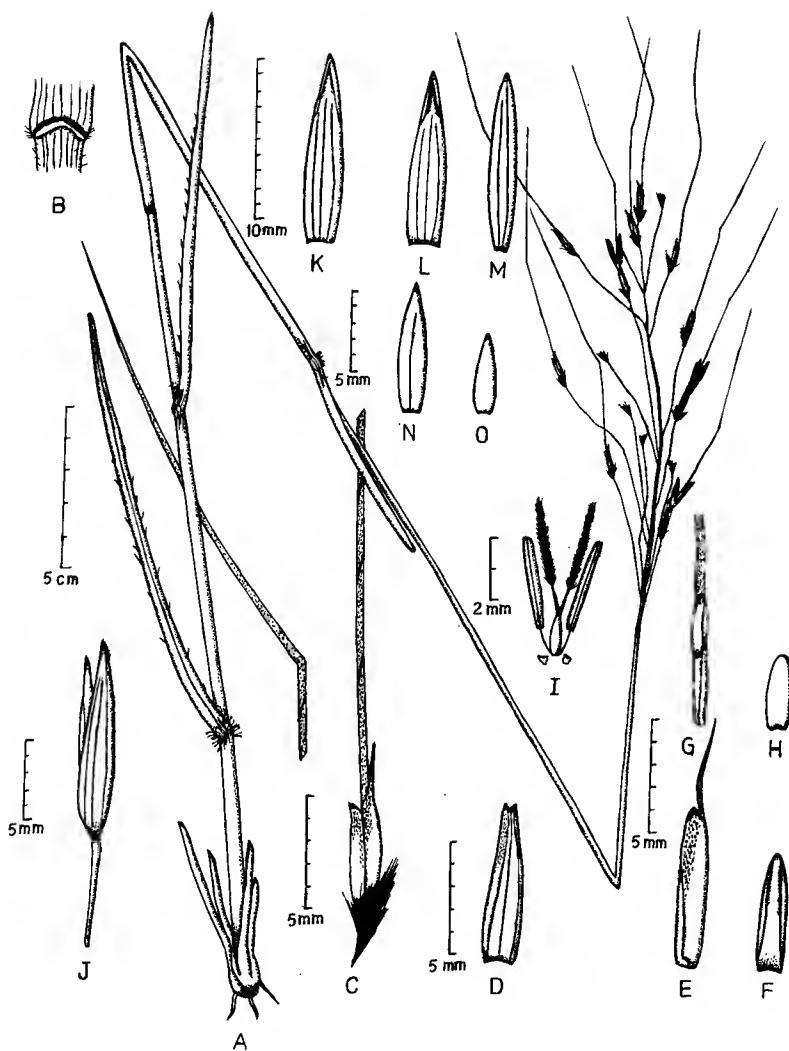


Fig. 1. *Chrysopogon castaneus* Veldkamp et Salunkhe, sp. nov. A. Habit; B. Ligule; Sessile spikelet; C. Spikelet; D. Lower glume; E. Upper glume; F. Lower lemma; G. Upper lemma; H. Palea; I. Lodicules, stamens & pistil; Pedicelled spikelet; J. Spikelet; K. Lower glume; L. Upper glume; M. Lower lemma; N. Upper lemma; O. Palea.

***Chrysopogon castaneus* , a new species from India**

glabrous. Panicle with few spikelets, 8-20 x 2.5 cm, castaneous, lowermost branches paired, longest branch simple, lowermost longest branch 5 cm long. Raceme peduncles c. 5 cm long, smooth to distally scaberulous, with 1 terminal triplet. Sessile spikelets c. 10 mm long (including callus), callus oblique, pungent, c.2 mm long, hairs 2-3 mm long, brown. Lower glume smooth, distally minutely tuberculate, apex notched; upper glume distally minutely tuberculate, without a dorsal fringe of hairs, apex mucronate, mucro c.1.5-4 mm long, awn straight or geniculate, 60-70 mm long column contorted, puberulous, hairs c. 0.3 mm long. Anthers 3; in the sessile spikelets 2.2-3 mm long, in the pedicelled lones 2.5-3.5 mm long. Pedicel 5-6 mm long, a little more than half as long as the sessile spikelet, glabrous or with 1 or 2 hairs, smooth. Pedicelled spikelets with 1 male floret, 10.5-12 mm long. Glumes green, smooth, glabrous, muticous.

Flowering & Fruiting: September to October.

Distribution: India: Endemic to Maharashtra.

Habitat: Rare in open grasslands at an altitudinal range between 725-1310 m, usually in association with species of *Dimeria*, *Glypochloa* and *Ischaemum*.

Acknowledgement

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